

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today the House of Representatives voted to pass legislation (H.R. 4970) that fails to include certain protections for immigrant, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT), and Native American victims of domestic violence. Before voting against the legislation, Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, delivered the following remarks on the floor of the House:

“Madam Speaker, two out of every ten women in America will be a victim of rape in their lifetime. □ More than that will experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner. □ Madam Speaker, which one of those women is not worthy of protection or support as a result of this legislation?

“H.R. 4970 is opposed by tribal governments because Native American women will have less protection under bill. □ H.R. 4970 is opposed by groups that support immigrants because immigrant women will find themselves victims of these crimes without the support that they need. □ And the community of LGBT Americans will find themselves without the support they would have, that they would get under the Senate version of this legislation.□

“Once again, the House majority demonstrates the dysfunction in Washington, D.C. □ Instead of applauding the overwhelming vote in the senate with a bipartisan vote that passed, just recently, by 68 votes in the Senate, for a Violence Against Women Act to be re-authorized, and putting that bipartisan bill on this floor, our Republican colleagues in the House went the other way.□

“Madam Speaker, it is time for us to put the Senate bill on the floor, get this work done, follow the lead of the American public that says, get to work, make it happen, and protect women who are the victims of violence in this country. □ With that, I yield back the balance of my time.”